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JAMES C. SPACE

Research Note

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PARALLAX WEDGE IMPROVED

Karl E. Moessner[1] amd Stewart Ross Tocher[2]

A new parallax wedge (fig. 1) recently designed at the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station combines plot circles, 0.001-foot rules, and the long wedge for use on photos of mountainous terrain.

The plot circles are useful when the wedge is used in timber survey. They include 1-acre and 1/5-acre circles for photo-scale reciprocals of 5,000, 10,000, 15,000, and 20,000. The interpreter centers the appropriate circle over plot center when measuring crown coverage of the plot. Stand height and crown diameters are usually measured without using the plot circle.

The 0.001-foot rules can be used to measure length of scale lines as well as distances between reference points and plot centers. They are particularly valuable in measuring slope percent. Here the interpreter first measures elevation difference by using his parallax wedge, then horizontal distance by using the 0.001-foot rule. Each graduation on the 0.001-foot rule represents a ground distance equal to:

$$\frac{\text{Photo-scale reciprocal}}{1{,}000}$$

Slope percent or gradient then equals vertical/horizontal distance. The addition of these plot circles and 0.001-foot rules to the standard wedge saves time for the interpreter by reducing the number of small scales he handles.

> Parallax wedges are printed 2 per 8- by 10-inch film and can be ordered through REGIONAL FORESTER, INTERMOUNTAIN REGION, U.S. FOREST SERVICE, OGDEN, UTAH.
>
> State and Federal agencies, including colleges and universities, may order these by official purchase order and be billed for the cost.
>
> Private individuals and firms should enclose a check or money order with their order, payable to: FOREST SERVICE, U.S.D.A.

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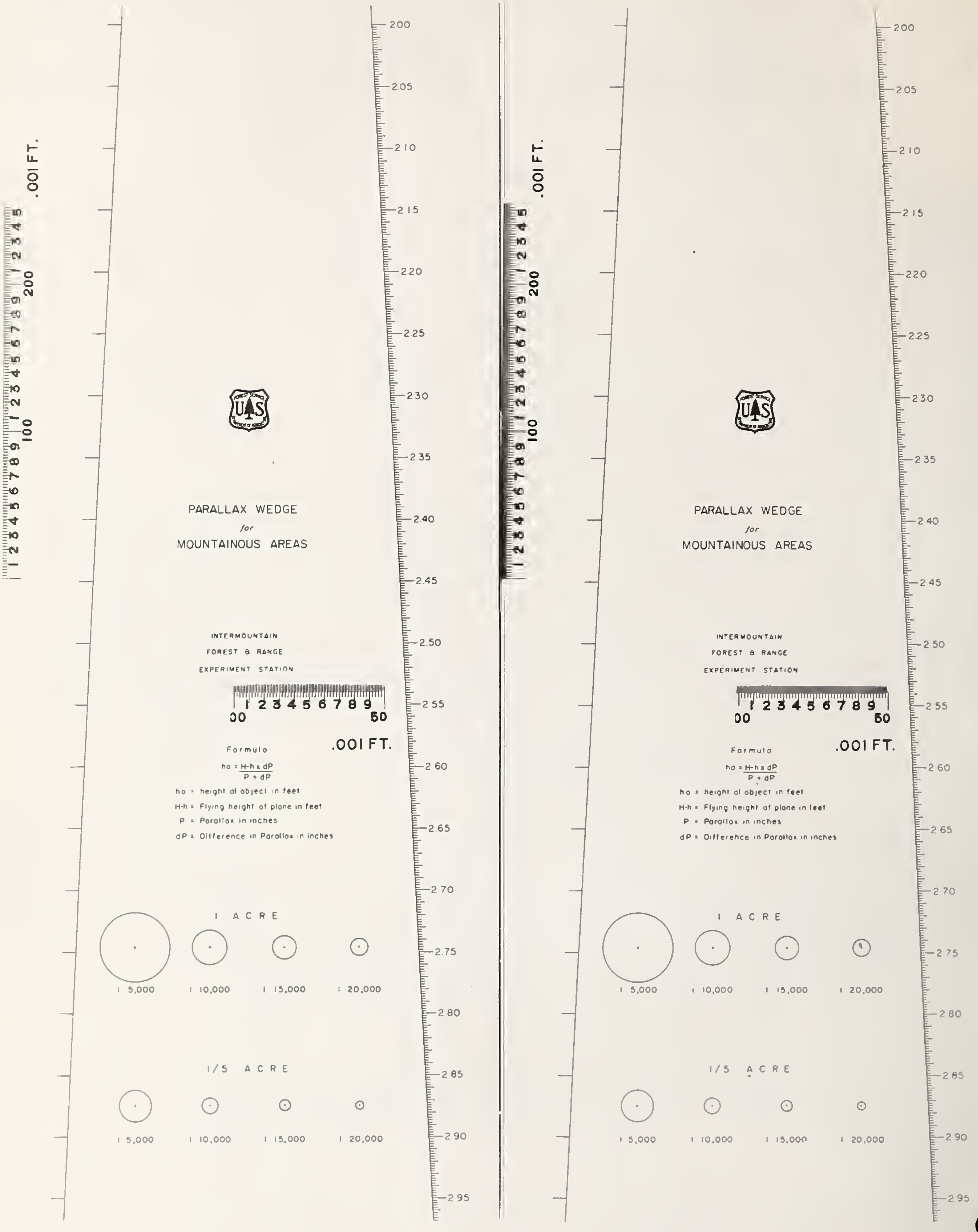

Figure 1.--Parallax wedge